

TO: Commissioner Jerry Libbin, Chair

### **Members of the Sustainability Committee**

Dave Doebler – Appointed by Commissioner Jerry Libbin
Lanette Sobel – Appointed by Commissioner Jorge Exposito
Debra Leibowitz – Appointed by Commissioner Deede Weithorn
Liliam Furst – Appointed by Commissioner Jonah Wolfson
Luiz Rodrigues – Appointed by Commissioner Ed Tobin
Gabriole Van Bryce – Appointed by Commissioner Michael Gongora
Mitch Novick – Appointed by Mayor Matti Herrera Bower

DATE: September 17, 2013

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF JULY 16, 2013.

**The attendees were as follows**: Committee members: Debra Leibowitz, Liliam Furst, Luiz Rodrigues, Gabriole Van Bryce, and Mitch Novick.

Absentees: Lanette Sobel, and Dave Doebler.

**City Staff:** Betsy Wheaton, Environmental Resources Manager; Margarita Wells, Environmental Specialist; and, Ariel Moger, Environmental Intern.

#### 1. Minutes Review

a. Motion to approve the June meeting minutes with an addition to the Tree Canopy Discussion made by Ms. Van Bryce, seconded by Mr. Novick. Minutes approved unanimously. ACTION: Staff to revise minutes and to invite Mr. John Oldenburg to a future meeting for a discussion regarding plant selection Citywide.

## 2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

# a. Solid Waste Management.

i. The Committee voiced concerns over the reduced number of waste hauler franchisees in the City. Mr. Novick suggested that the Committee make a recommendation to the Commission that the maximum amount of franchisees allowable by City Code be selected in the upcoming selection process. Commissioner Libbin explained that it is difficult for the City to retain and maintain the maximum number of waste haulers because Miami Beach is such a small market. Commissioner Libbin encouraged interested Committee members to contact the Selection Committee and request to be a part of the selection process. MOTION: The Sustainability Committee recommends that the Mayor, Commission. and Administration seek a Request for Proposals (RFP) to consider selecting the maximum amount of waste haulers permitted to minimize the current monopoly with the intent that it will benefit

- the pricing. Motion made by Mr. Novick, seconded by Ms. Leibowitz. Passed unanimously.
- ii. Commissioner Libbin provided an update on the status of recycling ordinance's enforcement, including the Neighborhood and Community Affairs Committee's request to extend the start of the enforcement period until January 2014. Commissioner Libbin advised that the City must fill the Sustainability Officer position and select at least one more franchisee hauler before the start of the enforcement period. Ms. Wheaton added that, during the recycling ordinance revision, the City will also be seeking to close an unforeseen loophole in the existing ordinance language which does not specify that residences with two (2) to eight (8) units must also provide a recycling program. The Committee recommended that the City immediately send out warning letters to non-compliant property owners and also host neighborhood town hall meetings to inform the community about the ordinance requirements. Ms. Wheaton responded that the City has already conducted substantial education and outreach and that she would present a summary of past initiatives at the September meeting. **ACTION:** Staff to provide a summary of the education and outreach efforts from the past year at the September meeting.
- b. Community Outreach & Participation. Ms. Wheaton highlighted upcoming community events that align with the Committee's mission, including America Recycles Day in November. The Committee suggested that the first town hall meeting for properties without a recycling program be held in South Beach as part of America Recycles Day. Ms. Leibowitz recommended that the meeting include representatives from the franchisee waste haulers, the City, and ECOMB. She also emphasized that the promotional materials for the event should be phrased to make the meeting appear mandatory. Commissioner Libbin suggested that staff ask the waste haulers to offer discounts or other promotions for property owners who sign up for recycling service at the meeting. Mr. Rodrigues proposed that, as part of these promotions, the waste haulers conduct a drawing to win a tour of their facilities. ACTION: Staff to coordinate a town hall meeting in November and to contact the franchisee waste haulers asking them to participate and offer promotions to new customers.

### 3. New Business.

- a. Commissioner Libbin informed the Committee of the Dual Bin launch on Lincoln Road. Mr. Rodrigues asked if a dual bin could be placed in front of City Hall. ACTION: Staff to ask Sanitation if there is an extra dual recycling bin that can be placed in front of City Hall.
- b. Ms. Van Bryce informed the Committee that William McDonough wants to

- add Miami Beach as the third city in the Cradle to Cradle program. She also mentioned that the City should create a Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Task Force.
- c. Commissioner Libbin informed the Committee that City representatives will be visiting the Netherlands to learn more about how Dutch engineering, innovation, and thinking can help prepare the City of Miami Beach for sea level rise. Ms. Wheaton mentioned that the City will also be hosting a one-day seminar in September on this topic.

### 4. Future Initiatives.

- a. Air Quality & Climate Change. Tobacco Free Florida Presentation.
- b. Natural Resources & Ecosystem Management.
  - i. Greenspace/Tree Advocacy Group (GTAG) Presentation.
  - ii. Plant Selection Citywide. John Oldenburg.
- **c.** Community Outreach & Participation. Mitzvah Day Planning. Debra Leibowitz.

# Meeting adjourned at 6:02 PM.

The proceedings of this meeting have been recorded. Please contact Patricia Bocio at 305.673.7080 or <a href="mailto:pbocio@miamibeachfl.gov">pbocio@miamibeachfl.gov</a> for more information.

ETC/JJF/RWS/ESW/MKW/aem